

Message Text

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SUBJ: CURRENT MEDIA REACTION

THE BULLETIN (CONSERVATIVE) JULY 29 COMMENTARY "MALTA AND TWO CONFERENCES" OBSERVES:

"THE WORLD WATCHES WITH A FEELING OF ANXIETY THE MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN SECURITY CONFERENCE.. MALTA'S EAGERNESS IS ALL THE STRONGER IN VIEW OF ITS PARTICIPATION AND HER RATHER ACTIVE PART IN THE LAST DAYS WHEN A FORM OF WORDING PLACATED THE MALTESE DELEGATION; IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A TRAGEDY HAD THE CONFERENCE NOT BEEN HELD.. BECAUSE EVEN IF THERE IS NOTHING LEGALLY BINDING IN THE WHOLE GAMUT OF DOCUMENTS AND STATEMENTS, AT LEAST THE INTENTIONS, GOOD, BAD, INDIFFERENT, SUSPECT OR NOT, ARE THERE FOR THE WORLD TO SEE. THERE WILL BE NO IMMEDIATE EASING OF THE EAST-WEST TENSION, IN SPITE OF THE DETENTE, THESE WILL BE KEYS, AND EMBRACES, BUT THEY MAY SIGNIFY NOT THAT IT IS ALL OVER NOR THAT A NEW SPIRIT HAD ENTERED THE MIND OF THE HEADS OF STATES WHO ARE ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE, AND WHO WILL SIGN THE ... DOCUMENT.

THE DOCUMENT ... MAY MEAN A LOT, OR NOTHING AT ALL. IF THE RUSSIAN IDEA IS TO TIE THE HANDS OF THE WESTERN POWERS, IN THE NAME OF DETENTE SO THAT THE RUSSIANS WILL BE FREE TO DEAL WITH WHAT IS NOW REGARDED THE COMMON ENEMY IN THE EAST, THEN THE POLITICAL PEACE THAT WILL BE SERVED WILL BE AN UNEASY ONE. MALTA'S STAND TO INCLUDE THE NATIONS OF THE AFRICAN LITTORAL BECAME AN UNTENABLE ONE, WHEN SHE BECAME ISOLATED, IT MEANS THAT THE IDEA OF A MEDITERRANEAN

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FREE FOR PEACE WILL HAVE TO BE RELEGATED INTO OBLIVION AS UNPRACTIC

ABLE ... HOWEVER MUCH IT APPEARED EXCELLENT IN THEORY, AS FAR
AS MALTA IS CONCERNED.

WE SEEMED TO HAVE FORGOTTEN EVEN FOR A SHORT TIME, THAT THE MEDITERRA
N
EAN IS NOT MALTA, AND WE GO TO HELSINKI IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THE
ATTEMPT TO GET MALTA TO BECOME THE CENTRE OF AN AREA FREE FROM
ARMS AND WEAPONS, HAS BEEN INCLUDED ON PAPER - BUT NOTHING MORE BE
YOND THAT, AS INDEED IS THE WHOLE DOCUMENT. THERE HAVE BEEN WORDS OF
PRAISE FOR THE DETENTE EFFORT MADE BY AND PRIMARILY AT THE INSTIGATION
N
OF THE TWO SUPER POWERS, THE SOVIET UNION HAS BEEN SEARCHING FOR AGES
TO OBTAIN SUCH A PEACE CONFERENCE FOR ALMOST FIFTEEN YEARS. AT LAST
IT HAS SUCCEEDED. WHETHER IT IS CONVENIENT AND PRAGMATIC FOR THE
UNITED STATES AND THE WEST REMAINS TO BE SEEN.

ONE HAS TO BE CONTENT AND PRAY THAT THE GOOD INTENTIONS OF THOSE
WHO THINK THAT A STEP OF A CERTAIN SIZE TOWARDS THE EASING OF
TENSION IN EUROPE HAS BEEN TAKEN. WHETHER IT WILL BE ALL TO THE
GOOD, IS LEFT IN THE LAPS OF THE GODS. HOWEVER IT WOULD BE
SURPRISING IF THE TWO SIDES WILL NOT BE GLAD TO EARN A BREATHING
SPACE, TO ADD TO THE MISTRUST OF EACH OTHER, AS THEY PLAN MORE
WEAPONS TO ATTACK AND CONTAIN ATTACKS...IN THE QUEST TOWARDS
PEACE, THERE WILL BE A LONG WAY TO GO.

ANOTHER MAJOR SUMMIT IS BEING HELD THIS WEEK: IN UGANDA. PRESIDENT
AMIN...HAS OUTLINED HIS PLAN, WITH THE STRESS ON THE NEED FOR
LIBERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA BY FORCE IF NECESSARY... ALSO CALLED
FOR THE EXPULSION OF ISRAEL FROM THE UNITED NATIONS...
BUT A FIREBRAND LIKE AMIN, CAN DO MORE HARM THAN GOOD TO THE
AFRICAN CAUSE... THE ATTEMPT TO DRAW THE ALREADY COMPLICATED ISSUE OF
THE MIDDLE EAST IN THE AGENDA OF THE OAU WILL ONLY ADD TO THE AL
READY GREAT CONFUSION THAT EXISTS IN THE CONFERENCE... MIDDLE EAST
WOULD BEST BE DEALT WITH BY THOSE ON THE SPOT; OR WHO HAVE BEEN EN
GAGED IN THE RAMIFICATIONS OF THE ALREADY WIDESPREAD DISCUSSIONS.
ANY MORE DABBLERS WILL ADD TO THE CONFUSION."

TIMES OF MALTA (CONSERVATIVE) JULY 30 EDITORIAL HEA4E@F@F0BIM*M4'HI?;8J?+4H7(UHQUHQJCHQYWFT"U-,?+,+FR-)8H\$/M@!2)ZJ_-;
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